

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE/MW

APPROVED BY S:MR. TWADDELL

S/S: R. PERITO

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 157287

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY

1. PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR YAQUB-KHAN CALLED ON THE SECRETARY JULY 6 TO AFFIRM THE CONTINUITY OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICIES AND TO STRESS THAT THE MILITARY REGIME HAD ONLY RELUCTANTLY INTERVENED AND FULLY INTENDED TO RESTORE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN PAKISTAN. MORE INTERESTING THAN HIS FORMAL PRESENTATION WAS HIS PRESENTATION OF PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE REASONS FOR THE MILITARY'S INTERVENTION, THE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GENERAL ZIA, AND THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN PAKISTAN, AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

2. STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND WITHOUT
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INSTRUCTIONS, THE ABBASSADOR ASSERTED THAT THE MILITARY HAD BEEN EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO ASSUME POWER IN PAKISTAN. IF IT HAD SOUGHT POWER IT WOULD HAVE INTERVENED EARLIER. INSTEAD IT HAD ATTEMPTED TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A POLITICAL DIALOGUE COULD OCCUR BETWEEN BHUTTO AND THE OPPOSITION. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THIS DIALOGUE HAD BROKEN DOWN AND A CIVIL WAR WAS LIKELY THAT THE ARMY FELT IT HAD

TO INTERVENE. IN A CIVIL WAR THE ARMY WOULD IN ANY CASE HAVE BECOME A PARTY TO THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE HAS KNOWN GENERAL ZIA FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR HIM. WHEN THE GENERAL STATES THAT HE INTENDS TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER HE MEANS IT. STRESSING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING OFF THE RECORD AND PERSONALLY THE AMBASSADOR HOWEVER EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT AN ELECTION COULD BE HELD IN OCTOBER. HE NOTED THAT THE OPPOSITION WAS REALLY A COALITION OF EXTREMELY DIVERSE VIEWS HELD TOGETHER ONLY BY THEIR HOSTILITY TO BHUTTO. WITH BHUTTO IN A MUCH WEAKENED POSITION, IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD FRAGMENT. IT WAS ALSO LIKELY THAT BHUTTO'S PARTY, THE PPP, WOULD ALSO FALL APART. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND ALLOWING FOR SOME TIME FOR POLITICAL PASSIONS TO ABATE AND, SINCE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES COULD NOT TAKE PLACE DURING RAMADAN, IT SEEMED VERY UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TIME TO HOLD A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO OCTOBER 7. THE POLITICAL PARTIES THEMSELVES MIGHT ASK GENERAL ZIA TO POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS FOR A MONTH OR TWO. SUCH A DELAY, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE INITIATED BY GENERAL ZIA HIMSELF.

4. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE EXPECTED THAT WITH THE NEW REGIME BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD IMPROVE. HE THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE USG'S "FORBEARANCE" OVER THE PAST
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FEW MONTHS AND STATED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THIS POLICY WOULD BE SHOWN TO HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY WISE.

5. THE SECRETARY STATED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE VISIT AND EXPOSITION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS. HE NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN THE PUBLIC LINE THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN WERE INTERNAL MATTERS ON WHICH WE WOULD NOT COMMENT. HE STRESSED THAT WE DO WANT THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP RESTORED TO THE OLD CLOSE LEVELS. THIS WAS IMPORTANT TO US AND WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO STRENGTHEN THESE BONDS.

6. YOU WILL OF COURSE APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING FOREGOING CLOSELY AND PROTECTING YAQUB-KHAN AS SOURCE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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